size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other operating/ administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency and without any regional considerations.

The proposal when seen in the light of the above criteria has not been found feasible.

Revised fare scheme

3318. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways has declared no hike in passengers fare in the budget of 2007-08;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that revised fare sans the telescopic benefit to the sleeper class passengers; and

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that this revised fare scheme would increase the fares of sleeper class passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposal for new rail services

†3319. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for introducing new railway services are pending with Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Rajasthan has also submitted some proposals in this regard;

(c) the criteria to introduce new rail services; and

(d) the reasons for not accepting the proposals received from Rajasthan?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Out of 55 pairs of trains annoucned in Railway Budget 2006-07, 4 pairs of trains are left for introduction. Further, 45 pairs of new trains have been announced to the introduced during 2007-08.

(b) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received from Government of Rajasthan. However, some proposals have been received from people's representatives *inter alia* regarding introduction of trains.

(c) and (d) New trains services are introduced subject to traffic justification, availability of resoruces, operational feasibility etc. Introduction of new trains is an ongoing exercise over Indian Railways and new train services are gradually provided irrespective of geographical boundaries every year. 5 pairs of new trains services announced in Railway Budget 2007-08 will serve Rajasthan.

Expenditure on repair and maintenance of railway

†3320. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a report submitted by Rakesh Mohan Committee, it has been stated that the expenditure on repair and maintenance by Indian Railways is continuously declining and track renewal work is not taking place as a result thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that trains are being badly affected due to overloading;

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking for the renewal of tracks; and

(d) the number of tracks repaired during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There were arrears of track renewals on Indian Railways. In year 2001-02, a Special Railway Safety Fund was created to wipe out areas of track renewals and other assets. In this 16538 km. track renewals were also sanctioned which were due as on 01-04-01. These works are targeted to be completed by 31-3-08. Most of the works have already been completed.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.